

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paras. [0004] and [0005] presently in the application with the replacement paras. [0004] and [0005] provided below.

[0004] However, this technique requires as many expensive machining lenses as ~~many as~~ the beam splits. In addition, since a region that can be scanned is limited, regions to be machined have to be allocated to be able to be perforated concurrently by the plurality of beam splits. In addition, it is difficult to allocate the regions to be machined in some machining patterns.

[0005] Therefore, in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 314188/1999 or Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~314188/1999~~ 2000-190087, two scanning optical systems are associated with one machining lens so that the machining speed is improved. In this case, it is not necessary to allocate regions to be machined. Thus, the workability can be improved.